

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-12 (canceled).

13. (currently amended): A method of manufacturing an electrode for discharge surface treatment, comprising:

providing a first powder material which contains at least a powder of a hard material having an electrical insulating property;

coating said first powder with a coating comprised of an electrically conductive material for generating discharge in the discharge surface treatment; and

compression-molding at least said coated first powder to form said electrode for discharge surface treatment using the coating as a binder.

14. (currently amended): A method of manufacturing an electrode for discharge surface treatment, comprising:

providing a first powder material which contains at least a powder of a hard material having an electrical insulating property;

coating said first powder with a coating comprised of an electrically conductive material for generating discharge in the discharge surface treatment;

compression-molding at least said coated first powder to form a compact using the coating as a binder; and

heat treating the compact to form said electrode for discharge surface treatment.

15. (previously presented): The method according to claim 14, further including the step of adding a wax to said coated first powder prior to the step of compression-molding; and wherein said step of heat treating includes a step of heating the compact at a temperature at or

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above a melting temperature of said wax but below a temperature whereat said wax decomposes to generate soot, and evaporating and removing said wax.